

the debt and to allow us to prevent default. When is this going to come up?

How much longer are we going to have to wait around here for the Republican leadership to play around with this issue? Already it is having a negative impact on our economy and I think it is about time that we faced up to our responsibility and brought up a clean debt ceiling bill so this Government does not go into default.

DEBT CEILING MUST BE LINKED TO BALANCED BUDGET

(Mr. HAYWORTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I listened with great interest to my friend from New Jersey again and again and again using the word "clean." I would suggest to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, that is inappropriate for this fundamental reason: We have failed to clean up this city. Thus far, the mission is still in front of us, to try to reconcile the problems of our Nation but not to always resort to big government as the answer.

The point was made at this podium 2 nights ago. The President of the United States came in, and on the headline in the Washington Post it said the President embraces GOP themes. Well, let us break it out from party authorship or pride of authorship and let us work together.

The problem remains the same. The budget has yet to be brought into balance despite the fact that this new majority gave the President a balanced budget with some votes from the other side of the aisle. To clean up our situation, we must embrace fiscal sanity, and these things are joined together, and we have to reconcile the differences.

PROTECT MEDICARE

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, last evening we had another reminder that democracy is alive and well in this great country. Yes, on national television Speaker GINGRICH conceded that his effort to dismantle Medicare this year, in his words, let it wither on the vine, has failed. That failure results directly from the voice of the American people, those who spoke out, those who wrote, those who demanded that their elected Members in Congress be accountable for protecting one of the most effective programs in American history, Medicare, which assures the security for health care of millions of older Americans and people with disabilities.

I commend the Speaker. Even though he pledged to try again to dismantle Medicare next year, he has finally yielded to the voice of the American people.

But I disagree with him on this. Mr. Speaker, we cannot walk away from our commitment to a balanced budget. We do not need a minimal down payment on the deficit. We need to bring the deficit down just as the last speaker said. And we can do that without bringing Medicare down with it. That is what the American people want. Protect Medicare, assure a balanced budget. We can deliver on that.

LET US JUDGE THE PRESIDENT BY PAST PERFORMANCE

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, in his State of the Union Address, President Clinton painted a rosy picture of our Nation's economy. He takes credit for reducing the deficit and a drop in crime rate.

What he did not tell you is that since President Clinton took office, our national debt has increased by \$800 billion, causing the debt to rise from \$4.1 to \$4.9 trillion. In addition, under the Clinton balanced budget proposal, our deficit would also increase from \$172 billion in 1996 to \$223 billion in 2002.

As for the economy, which he claims is moving in the right direction, the economic growth is questionable. From 1982 until 1990, it averaged about 4 percent a year. Under Clinton's watch, it only increased by 1.9 percent in the last year.

If there has been a drop in the crime rate, it can be attributed to our Governors implementing tough truth-in-sentencing and three-strikes-and-you're-out.

Mr. President, it is time to stop all the rhetoric and get down to business. We need a balanced budget and we need to lower our national debt.

10-YEAR-OLD TO BEAR CHILD

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, a 10-year-old girl in Houston is pregnant. The child of this child is due in about 2 weeks. The father of this child's child is the mother's boyfriend. This 22-year-old boyfriend is being charged with aggravated sexual assault. The mother's boyfriend has been with this child since she was 8 years old, and evidently the mother was completely cognizant of that fact.

Mr. Speaker, a woman who bears a child is not necessarily a mother and a man who sires a child is not necessarily a father, and this 22-year-old so-called man is not the only person at fault. This so-called mother should not pass "go." She should go directly to the damn slammer. Think about it.

ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the President has joined the flood of other former Democrats that have switched parties? If you watched the same State of the Union speech I did, one might think so.

But it is really not what the President said that matters, because he had said it all before. What matters is what he does.

I was hoping the President would present a real plan to reduce the size of government, lower taxes, save Medicare, and reform the failed welfare system.

Instead he gave us a mirage filled with double speak. It looks good from a distance, but the closer you get, the more you realize nothing is there. The President cannot have it both ways.

Our future is too important to risk with a mirage. Now it is time to draw the line in the sand, and stand up for our principles.

The old adage is "Actions speak louder than words." The President has given us a lot of words. Now he needs to follow up with his actions.

STATE OF THE UNION ANALYSIS

(Mr. TIAHRT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, the President gave a speech Tuesday night filled with great rhetoric about downsizing government, cutting spending, and returning power to the people. However, we know from experience that these policies of higher taxes, more government spending, and bigger Federal bureaucracy prevail. The President's record, it speaks louder than his words. He vetoed a balanced budget amendment, or a balanced budget bill. He vetoed a pro-family, pro-jobs tax cut. He vetoed real welfare reform, emphasizing work, family, and responsibility. He vetoed legislation returning power to the States, communities, and families, and he vetoed a long-term solution for Medicare.

Mr. Speaker, the President's actions are clear contradictions to his words. He will say anything and then support the liberal policies of the status quo. Big government bureaucracy, big government spending, and a big government intrusion into our lives. As Majority Leader DOLE said, "It's time to walk the walk and talk the talk."

DUMB AND MUCH DUMBER

(Mr. SCHUMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. Speaker, if this were a movie, it would be called